

PRESS RELEASE

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Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the adoption of a common position on Kosovo

The European Union's Council of Ministers yesterday agreed to a series of measures designed to put pressure on Belgrade to find a peaceful settlement to the Kosovo problem. These comprise an arms embargo, a refusal to supply equipment that might be used for internal repression or terrorism, a moratorium on export credit and a ban on visas for a list of Serbian officials identified as having clear security responsibilities in Kosovo.

This prompt action, following discussion among Foreign Ministers on 13 March, underlines the seriousness with which the EU takes recent developments in Kosovo. We intend to maintain the pressure on the Belgrade authorities to launch a meaningful dialogue without preconditions. We expect both them and the Kosovar Albanian leadership to shoulder their responsibilities - the interests of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, including Kosovo, and the stability of the region depend upon it.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated country Cyprus and the EFTA countries, members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.